

Message Text

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SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM: JAN RAZNIEWSKI

1. MFA DEPARTMENT III OFFICIAL KRYSTOSIK CALLED IN EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER ON APRIL 16 CONCERNING A REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM BY POLISH CITIZEN JAN RAZNIEWSKI, WHO HAD ARRIVED A FEW DAYS AGO IN NEW YORK AS PART OF THE ROTATING CREW OF A POLISH FISHING VESSEL (KRYSTOSIK DID NOT KNOW WHICH ONE). RATHER THAN REJOINING THE VESSEL, RAZNIEWSKI HAD CONTACTED INS OFFICIALS AND ASKED FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM, ACCORDING TO KRYSTOSIK. THE MFA OFFICIAL DECLARED THAT RAZNIEWSKI, A SCIENTIFIC EMPLOYEE OF THE FISHING INSTITUTE IN SWINOUJSCIE, HAS A WIFE AND CHILD IN POLAND.

2. KRYSTOSIK STRONGLY EMPHASIZED THAT RAZNIEWSKI LEFT POLAND IN "OFFICIAL STATUS" WITH PROPER CREWMAN'S DOCUMENTATION. KRYSTOSIK CLAIMED THAT INS AUTHORITIES ARE CAUSING DIFFICULTIES IN RESPONSE TO THE POLISH EMBASSY'S REQUEST FOR A MEETING WITH RAZNIEWSKI. KRYSTOSIK CONTENDED THAT THERE IS NO GROUND FOR POLITICAL-ASYLUM STATUS AND STRONGLY PROTESTED THE INS ACTION.

3. KRYSTOSIK ADDED THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD INFORMED THE POLISH EMBASSY THAT A MEETING WITH RAZNIEWSKI COULD BE ARRANGED FOR

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POLISH EMBASSY OFFICIALS IF RAZNIEWSKI SO DESIRES. (THE

IMPLICATION WAS THAT HE DOES NOT WISH SUCH A MEETING). KRYSTOSIK DECLARED THAT, IF REZNIEWSKI DOES NOT WANT TO MEET WITH THEM, POLISH EMBASSY OFFICIALS WOULD LIKE TO HEAR IT FROM HIM DIRECTLY "AT SUCH A MEETING." KRYSTOSIK STRESSED THAT IT WOULD BE IN RAZNIEWSKI'S INTEREST TO MEET WITH POLISH OFFICIALS, AND HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD FACILITATE THIS. HE ADDED POINTEDLY THAT THE POLISH AUTHORITIES WILL NOT BE PREPARED TO REGARD POSSIBLE FUTURE VISA APPLICATIONS FROM RAZNIEWSKI'S SPOUSE AND CHILD AS AN INSTANCE INVOLVING FAMILY REUNIFICATION.

4. THE EMBASSY OFFICER PROMISED TO CONVEY KRYSTOSIK'S POINTS TO THE DEPARTMENT. HE POINTED OUT THAT INS HAD APPARENTLY NOT YET MADE A JUDGMENT AS TO RAZNIEWSKI'S STATUS, BUT WAS CONSIDERING HIS APPLICATION UNDER NORMAL PROCEDURES. THE OFFICER EXPRESSED HIS CONVICTION THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD DO WHAT IT COULD TO FACILITATE PROPER HANDLING OF THE CASE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPROPRIATE PROCEDURES.

4. COMMENT: RAZNIEWSKI'S VISA WAS ISSUED BY CONSULATE POZNAN ON APRIL 9, 1976. EMBASSY FILES ARE NEGATIVE.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS CASE SO AS TO BE ABLE TO RESPOND TO ANY FURTHER MFA REPRESENTATIONS. ALTHOUGH HE GAVE US NOTHING IN WRITING, KRYSTOSIK CLEARLY INTENDED TO READ INTO THE RECORD THE GOP POSITION ON THE DIVIDED-FAMILY IMPLICATIONS OF THE RAZNIEWSKI CASE.

6. KRYSTOSIK IS THE LOWEST-RANKING POLITICAL OFFICER IN DEPARTMENT III. THE FACT THAT THIS REPRESENTATION WAS MADE BY HIM TO A SUBORDINATE OFFICER IN THE EMBASSY'S POLITICAL SECTION INDICATES THAT, AT ITS PRESENT STAGE, THE POLISH AUTHORITIES WOULD LIKE TO AVOID GIVING THE CASE TOO MUCH PROMINENCE.

7. RECOMMENDATION. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT, IN ORDER TO PROTECT OURSELVES IN POSSIBLE FUTURE CASES IN POLAND, WE DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO SATISFY THE POLISH REQUEST FOR AN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTERVIEW WITH RAZNIEWSKI. OBVIOUSLY, EVERY SAFEGUARD MUST BE APPLIED TO PREVENT BULLYING OR THE EXERCISE OF UNDUE PRESSURE ON HIM. OUR EXPERIENCE IN ANALOGOUS CASES WITH SOVIET CITIZENS INDICATES THAT THIS KIND OF ENCOUNTER CAN BE HANDLED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO GIVE SATISFACTION TO THE POLISH GOVERNMENT, WHILE PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL. (IF THERE HAVE NOT BEEN CASES LIKE THIS RECENTLY, JOHN D. SCANLAN, NOW AT THE SENIOR SEMINAR, CAN,

I AM SURE, MAKE HIS ABUNDANT EXPERIENCE AVAILABLE UPON
REQUEST.)
DAVIES

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